



Timely Tidbits ...

Filing Deadline Nears for School Board Candidates

Residents who would like to run for one of two available seats on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education in the May 5, 2009 election have until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, to file for candidacy with the Romulus City Clerk's office.

Candidates may submit petitions with a minimum of 40 signatures from registered voters residing in the district, or pay a \$100 fee.

Call 734-942-7540 for info.

MLK Day Celebration

The Romulus community's annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is set for Monday, January 19, 2009.

The program will begin at 7:15 a.m. at Cory Elementary School (35200 Smith Road), where coffee and donuts will be served prior to an 8 a.m. ceremonial walk from Cory to Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road). Walkers who wish to do so may park at the high school, where free bus transportation to Cory will be available at 7 a.m.

Afterward, from 8 to 9 a.m., a breakfast, prepared and served by local leaders, will be offered in the RHS cafeteria for the cost of a donation. A commemorative program will follow at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

Participants are asked to bring a nonperishable food item for the Romulus Helping Hand Food Drive.

For further information, call Louise Briody (734-532-1643), Ellen Craig-Bragg (532-1020), or Reverend Arthur Willis (313-701-2423).

Lambert To Give Annual State of the City Address

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert will deliver his annual "State of the City" address at the next Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce business luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, January 27, at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road). Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m.; lunch will follow at noon.

Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for nonmembers. To make a reservation, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail info@romuluschamber.com. □

Geiss Begins Duties as Representative for Taylor, Romulus



Circuit Court Judge Christopher D. Dingell (left) administered the oath of office to State Representative Douglas A. Geiss (right) during a ceremony held in the Taylor City Council chambers on January 1. On hand to share in the celebration were Geiss's wife, Erika-Marie, and his son, Michael. Photo by Kathleen Trent

Family members, friends, and visitors filled the Taylor City Council chambers on January 1 to witness a swearing-in ceremony for State Representative Douglas A. Geiss, who was elected last November to serve the 22nd District. Administering the oath of office was Circuit Court Judge Christopher D. Dingell.

Geiss, who served on the Taylor City Council for the past seven years, resigned his seat at the end of December.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Taylor as your Councilman, and I thank you for placing your trust in me to serve you in Lansing as your state representative," he said.

Although the State Legislature's new session will not officially begin until January 14, when a second, ceremonial oath-taking will be administered, Geiss says he has already begun preparing to address his top priorities of jobs, education, and the environment. These preparatory efforts over the last two months included work on a preliminary draft of legislation intended to lure new businesses to Michigan.

Geiss is certainly no stranger to the world of politics. As a teenager attending Truman High School, he worked on the campaign of then-Congressman William D. Ford, and spent his junior year (1986-87) as Ford's Congressional Page in Washington, D.C. The experience gave him early insight into the process of government, and that understanding, he believes, will serve him well in Lansing.

"While working for the U.S. House of Representatives, I saw the intricate workings of the democratic process when Speaker of the House Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill led the Congress to enact bipartisan legislation," said Geiss. "The State of Michigan needs this same level of bipartisanship to ensure that the work of the people is done."

Geiss also feels that his education and career background will prove to be a big *continued on page 9*

Taylor Council Selects Stapleton To Fill Seat Vacated by Geiss

The Taylor City Council has chosen Dennis E. Stapleton to fill the seat recently vacated by Douglas A. Geiss, who was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives last November.

Stapleton, who received the eighth-highest vote total in the 2005 council election, was approved by a 4-1 vote, with Councilwoman Pro Tem Jill Brandana being the sole dissenter, and Councilman Jeffrey P. Lamarand abstaining.

Brandana had proposed Dar' Bzura as Geiss's replacement.

Stapleton was previously appointed to the Taylor City Council in July 1994. He served until the end of 1997, when his bid for election proved unsuccessful.

* * *

Other actions taken during the January 6 council meeting included the selection of Jacklyn Molner as Chairman. The 11-year council veteran was chosen to replace former chairman Geiss by a 4-2 margin, with Brandana and Lamarand dissenting and Molner abstaining. □



Newly appointed Taylor City Councilman Dennis Stapleton was sworn into office by City Clerk Mary Ann Riley during the council meeting on January 6.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.

As always, opinions expressed in "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of the little paper.

* * *

Remembering Bill Simonds

To the Editor:

Many longtime residents of Romulus remember Bill Simonds and have already heard of his passing on December 5, 2008. [Editor's note: See page 10 of this issue for his obituary.]

From 1975 to 1985, Mr. Simonds owned and operated Bilmar's Supermarket on the site that is now Romulus Market Place. He had a loyal clientele due to his unwavering focus on the needs of "Mrs. Consumer." He also received many awards and much recognition for his involvement in various Romulus community groups and activities. For many local folks, Bilmar's was their first taste of the working world: bagging groceries, stocking shelves, and keeping that tile floor sparkling clean.

I started working at Bilmar's in the fall of 1978, shortly after graduating from high school, and remained on the staff until the store closed in 1985. There were many of us who were longtime employees, and most of us fell under Big Bill's stern gaze from time to time. Mr. Simonds was a tough man to work for. He had very high standards concerning how things should be done, and he expected people to work while they were on the clock. He was always telling us to "work smarter, not harder." Actually, he had many sayings, and many of us did our own impressions of the boss – when he wasn't within earshot, of course.

I must admit that there were times when I hated Bill Simonds, usually after times when I personally experienced his wrath. With the passage of years, I can now look back and say that the anger I felt was misplaced. In truth, he was holding up a mirror and showing me what I was capable of, and how I wasn't living up to it. I wasn't Mr. Simonds' best employee by any means, but, because of the standards he set, I have often found myself in that position at other workplaces. I have never had difficulty earning the respect of my supervisors or managers because I was blessed to have had a boss like Mr. Simonds early in my career.

It speaks volumes that, nearly a quarter century after Bilmar's closed, many former employees gathered at the visitation

at Crane Funeral Home to pay our respects and reminisce about the old days. We didn't always like the man, but we always respected him, and now, many years later, discover that we loved him. He was employer, mentor, teacher, and father-figure to many people.

He will be missed, and he will never be forgotten.

Stuart Kerr
Romulus

Former Landis Employee Learned Valuable Lessons

To the Editor:

I read with interest your recent article [December 12, 2008] about the 80th anniversary of Landis Machine Shop in Romulus. As a 1982 graduate of Romulus Community Schools, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work for shop owner Mark Lewkowicz between October 1981 and October 1985. It was my first real-life job. I worked there my last year and a half of high school as a co-op student, and learned some very valuable lessons during those four years – lessons that I still use even today in my current occupation.

As a young employee just breaking into the job market and finding out what it takes to earn a living, I had the perfect boss in Mark. He provided the guidance and type of leadership that allowed a young worker to think for himself (sure, make a few mistakes) and learn without knowing he was being taught. I was given free responsibility for completing my assigned tasks, such as tooling setup, making pickups and deliveries, operating a Hi-Lo, quality control, facility and machine maintenance, house-keeping ... you name it. These invaluable lessons I still use today, and appreciate having learned them early on at the Landis Machine Shop.

I am also proud to say that, while working for Mark at Landis, we always provided top-quality customer service, and always made our deliveries on or ahead of time.

Jerry Frederick
Romulus □

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New Boston's Sobecki To Manage Fourth Huron-Clinton Metropark



Richard E. Sobecki

Richard E. Sobecki of New Boston, already a superintendent for three area Huron-Clinton Metroparks, has been given the added responsibility of managing Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown.

The 35-year Metroparks employee has been superintendent of Wayne County's other three Metroparks – Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods – since 1994.

Sobecki began his career with Huron-Clinton Metroparks in 1965 as a part-time tot lot attendant at the Lower Huron park. He was hired full time as an engineering aide at the Administrative Office in 1972, account clerk in 1978, accountant in 1984, and operations supervisor/assistant park superintendent at Lower Huron, Willow and Oakwoods Metroparks in 1987.

He has a bachelor of business administration degree in general business from Eastern Michigan University.

Located along the Huron and Clinton rivers, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks provide a natural oasis from urban and suburban life as well as year-round recreational activities and events. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com or by calling 1-800-47-PARKS. □

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Lawsuit Settlement Nixes New 12-plex Units, Permits Construction of Single-family Homes

Mayor Cameron G. Priebe is hailing a settlement between the City of Taylor and one of its largest builders as a major step toward reducing an overabundance of planned housing development in the city.

According to Priebe, the lawsuit settlement between the City and MJC Companies significantly reduces the number of planned new residences in Taylor by trading multifamily units for single-family houses.

"We were able to eliminate 444 apartment-like 12-plex units and replace them with single-family homes," he explained. "This is not a perfect deal, but we have made the most of the hand we were dealt."

The dispute arose when the Mayor, after his election in 2005, demanded that MJC reconsider its plans to develop multiple-family units throughout the city.

The Taylor City Council unanimously approved the new agreement on December 16. Altogether, it covers five developments: Wellington Estates, Autumn Woods, Carrington Village, Cypress Gardens, and Devonshire.

Michael Chirco, president and CEO of MJC, said his company ap-

plauds the accord.

"We are pleased that the City has agreed to settle the dispute," Chirco said. "The Mayor got much of what he wanted in the process, and our companies want to move forward with an improved relationship with City officials."

Taylor Executive Director of Development Services Joseph Nardone, City Councilman Rick Sollars, and City Attorney Edward Plato negotiated the settlement on behalf of the City.

"I'd like to thank the Mayor, City Council, and MJC Companies for working cooperatively to resolve this issue," Nardone said. "I want to offer a special 'thank you' to Councilman Sollars for his input and expertise."

Priebe said that diminishing the number of proposed new multifamily residences has been one of his main priorities since he returned to office.

"Reducing the overabundance of planned multifamily housing is a victory for the people of the City of Taylor," said the Mayor. "Multiple-family housing puts further strain on city services."

"These agreements allow us to preserve some open space and reduce density," he added. □

Romulus Police Officers Promoted



During a brief ceremony held at Romulus City Hall on November 18, 2008, Philip Czernik (center) of the Romulus Police Department was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant. Among those on hand for the swearing in were (from left) Public Safety Director Charles Kirby, Mayor Alan R. Lambert, and RPD Deputy Chiefs Michael St. Andre and Michael Coffey. Photos by R. E. Kadau



RPD Sergeant James Cox (center) was promoted to Lieutenant on December 11.



On December 17, RPD Officer Joshua Monte was promoted to Sergeant.

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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 16.

Belleville

"Jazz It Up at the Library"

The Friends of the Library will hold their annual meeting/party, "Jazz It Up at the Library," at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) on Saturday, January 17, at 7 p.m.. The event is a wonderful opportunity enjoy cool jazz and great food while meeting other people interested in the library.

For information, call 734-699-3291.

Beyond Earth

The 2009 Family Reading and Science program to be offered at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) is "Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space!" The free program will feature hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult).

Scheduled topics include:

- Look Up at the Sky! (Saturday, January 17, 3 p.m.),
- Planet Adventures! (Saturday, February 21, 3 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Saturday, March 21, 3 p.m.).

For information, call 734-699-3291.

Books on Wheels

In an effort to provide everyone in the Belleville area with easy access to library resources, the Fred C. Fischer Library is spearheading a "Books on Wheels" program to deliver books to those unable to access the library in person.

This effort is meant to target not only senior apartment buildings, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities, but also private residences.

Any person of any age in the Belleville, Sumpter, or Van Buren area who would like library services, but is homebound, is welcome to participate. Contact Michelle at the library (734-699-3291) during business hours: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Note: This program is also in need of volunteers to deliver books to participants. Volunteers must have their own transportation. Call Michelle for information.

Huron Township

A Mom's Guide to Eating Sensibly and Living Well

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the YWCA, is offering a class loaded with tips for busy moms who don't have a lot of time, but want to make simple changes that will help them lose weight and create a healthy lifestyle for the entire family.

Topics will include:

- Week 1 – Yes, you can lose the baby weight!
- Week 2 – Quick and healthy meal plans and easy exercise tips
- Week 3 – Feeding picky eaters
- Week 4 – Be a nutrition role model for your children

This is not a fad diet program, but lifestyle modification taught by a registered dietitian. By learning the tricks in these four classes, you will discover how you and your family can eat sensibly and live well!

Classes will be held at Huron High School (32044 Huron River Drive) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Monday from January 12 through February 9.

Cost is \$10 for Township residents, \$15 for nonresidents. Advance registration is required.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

Romulus

Roast Beef Dinner

The next in a series of roast beef dinners hosted by Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will be held Saturday, January 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The dinners – open to all – include roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, and beverage. Takeouts and deliveries to the Romulus area are available.

Succeeding dinners will be held the second Saturday of each month.

Suggested donation is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6 to 12.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy (January 12),
- *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D. Estleman (February 9),
- *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts (March 9),
- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Beyond Earth

The 2009 Family Reading and Science program to be offered at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) is "Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space!" The free program will feature hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult).

Scheduled topics include:

- Look Up at the Sky! (Monday, January 26th, 6 p.m.),
- Planet Adventures! (Monday, February 23rd, 6 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Monday, March 23rd, 6 p.m.).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Bowling Event Benefits RHS Class of '79 Reunion Fund

Romulus High School's Class of 1979 is hosting a bowling fund-raiser at Wayne Bowl (36900 Michigan Avenue) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 31. The event will raise money for a 30-year reunion to be held sometime in August.

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids.

For bowling information, call Anthony (313-247-7306) or Duane (248-459-3399).

For information about the reunion – which will also be open to the classes of 1977, '78, '80, and '81 – call Duane or Lisa (734-624-0901). Note: Information about "lost" classmates would be appreciated.

Banquet Royale 2009

St. Aloysius Catholic Church will hold its 2009 Banquet Royale starting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 20, at St. Stephen Activity Center (18858 Huron River Drive, New Boston). The event will feature dinner and an open bar, as well as a "reverse raffle" with a top prize of \$5,000.

Tickets are \$150 each; "guest tickets" (ineligible for the reverse raffle) are available for \$75. Stop in at the Parish Office or call the Church (734-941-5056), Theresa McLachlan (734-941-3829), or Steve Kertesz (734-740-3444).

Taylor

Youth "Lock-In"

Students in grades 7–12 are invited to enjoy overnight entertainment during a Lock-In at the Taylor Recreation Center (22805 Goddard Road). The event, sponsored by Mayor Cameron G. Priebe's Youth Advisory Council, is set for 10 p.m. Saturday, January 17, through 7 a.m. Sunday, January 18.

Activities will include:

- 3-on-3 basketball tournament,
- wallyball,
- racquetball,
- use of workout equipment,
- video games,
- karaoke, and
- performances by local bands ("I Have Seen Fire," "Our False Heroes," "Voices of Dissent," and "Trophy Boys").

Cost (also includes food) is \$10 per person if prepaid at the Recreation Office, or \$15 at the door. Participants must have a signed permission slip (available at the Recreation Office and at the door).

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council plans events for younger people in the city and provides advice to the city administration about the needs of teenagers.

For information, call 734-374-3906.

Craft Time at the Library

Children in grades K–3 are invited to take part in the Taylor Community Library's monthly Craft Time program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Upcoming programs include:

- Valentine's Day (January 28),
- St. Patrick's Day (February 25), and
- Easter (March 25).

Each Wednesday program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Although there is no fee to attend, space is limited, and advance registration is required.

For information, call 734-287-4840.



~ Crane ~

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"Habitat" Home Recently Rededicated



The Mulholland family has moved into a rehabilitated home thanks to a partnership between the City of Taylor and Habitat for Humanity. Attending a recent dedication ceremony were: (from left) homeowners Michael and Janice Mulholland with their son Charles; Alice Dent, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County; Debbie Knight, Community Development director, City of Taylor; Melanie Blacksmith, recruiting manager for Superior Staffing Innovations; and Paula Mackowiak, assistant vice-president, Fifth Third Bank, Riverview Financial Center. *Photo by Kathleen Trent*

An old home has a new look and new owners thanks to the City of Taylor's collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps families acquire a home of their own by building/rebuilding it with the help of volunteers.

The project began with the "Taylor Cares" program's donation of two houses – one located on the 6600 block of Buck, the other on the 5900 block of Wilkie – to Habitat for Humanity-Western Wayne County. Habitat funded the closing costs.

The Mulholland family was chosen as the new purchasers of the Wilkie residence.

"I wish everybody could have seen this place before we started working on it," said Michael Mulholland, who, along with his wife Janice, invested some serious "sweat equity" in the house. "It really has been a transformation."

Helping the Mulhollands bring that transformation about was a core construction team that included Douglas Black, John Bray, Ken Dettmer, Tom Doyle, John Elliott, William Howard, Chuck Lenz, Larry McDonagh, Patrick McPhail, Richard Plumer, Gary Rosencranz, Donald Scheich, Burton Shurlow, and Donald Stauffer.

"We are so excited about moving here," said Janice, who's thrilled to have a new home for her five-year-old son Charles. "I am so thankful to everyone who helped us."

The family is looking forward to becoming a part of the neighborhood.

"Charley has already met some kids on the block," said Michael. "We feel really good about coming here."

On December 13, volunteers, family members, and friends gathered for a ribbon-cutting at the Mulhollands' new home. Alice Dent, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County, presented the family with a Holy Bible, a tradition in the Habitat organization.

According to Dent, rehabilitating old homes is a new direction for the Habitat organization. In the past, she said, Habitat

for Humanity built homes from the ground up – but, realizing there is a need for rehabilitation of existing homes, the organization plans to do more rehabs in the future.

"Rehabbing homes versus building from the ground up will help us to increase our capacity while getting partner families in homes faster," she explained.

Dent called the project a team effort, and thanked those who made it a success.

"Financial sponsors for the Wilkie home included Fifth Third Bank and Superior Staffing Innovations. Construction in-kind donors included the Home Depot and Whirlpool Corporation. Our core workers did a remarkable job rebuilding this home."

Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe said the partnership with Habitat is a win-win for the city.

"The transaction will make new homeowners out of two families, will fill two previously vacant homes, will rehabilitate the dwellings, and will put the homes back on the tax rolls," he noted.

Dent said Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses, sheltering more than a million people in 3,000 communities in 100 countries. Founded as a Christian organization, Habitat welcomes volunteers from all walks of life. Homeowners contribute sweat equity and a down payment in exchange for a 20-year, 0-percent mortgage. Like Taylor Cares, Habitat is interested in placing individuals in homes.

"Habitat for Humanity is honored to partner with the City of Taylor to make a significant impact on the community and in the lives of low-income families that are in need of affordable housing," Dent said. "This once-vacant house now has a family to take care of it and make it a real home."

She added, "We are grateful to Mayor Cameron Priebe and City Council, and particularly to Jon Belanger and Debbie Knight of Taylor Cares, for nurturing this process, and assisting with the acquisition of the homes on Wilkie and Buck streets." □

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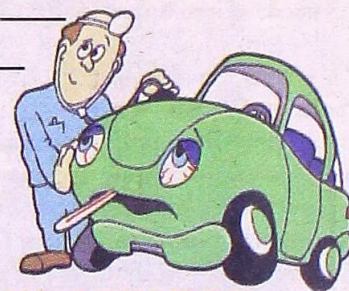
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Masons Provide New Coats, Boots for Taylor Parks Elementary Students



Members of Golden Ark Masonic Lodge #595 of Taylor donated new winter coats and boots to Taylor Parks Elementary students. Pictured (left to right) are John R. Miller, senior warden; James Collier, steward; Trisha Burgeon, fourth-grade teacher; Joe Molner, past master; and Nicole Chubb, Taylor Parks social worker. *Photo by Kathleen Trent*

Winter will be a lot warmer for 23 Taylor Parks Elementary students thanks to the generosity of Taylor's Golden Ark Masonic Lodge #595, which has raised funds to provide underprivileged students with coats and boots.

Nicole Chubb, social worker at Taylor Parks, works with the Golden Ark Lodge to identify students in grades K-5 who need outerwear to stave off the cold.

"We are so grateful that we have good people in the community who want to help kids," Chubb said. "It makes me feel good just to be a part of this."

Joe Molner, past master, said his lodge decided to get involved at the request of his daughter, Trisha Burgeon, a fourth-grade teacher at the school.

"This is the second year we have been

able to give the kids coats and boots," Molner said. "We are glad to do it."

John R. Miller, senior warden, said his group was concerned about the numbers of children who don't have the proper clothing for winter weather in Michigan, and decided to take action. They collected funds and worked with staff members at Burlington Coat Factory, a Taylor business, to purchase new coats and boots.

Through various fund-raising efforts, the Masons were able to donate more than \$2,100 worth of outerwear to the students.

"We do this for the kids," Miller said. "Children are our future, and we all need to take care of them the best we can."

Visit www.goldenark.mimasons.com for more information about Golden Ark Lodge #595. □

Senior Christmas Gala Was Festive Affair



Holiday spirit brought smiles to all who attended the Romulus Senior Center's Christmas Gala on December 17. Merry-makers included (from left) Dorothy Scott, Mayor Alan R. Lambert, and Sharon Hines. *Photo by R. E. Kadam*

Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

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Keep Your Fitness Resolutions with a Romulus Athletic Center Membership

The beautiful Romulus Athletic Center is offering generous discounts on memberships for Romulus senior citizens age 55 and over. Individuals can join for as little as \$168.75 per year, families (all members must be senior citizens) for as little as \$300.

Romulus seniors can also purchase individual day passes for just \$5.25.

The RAC – located at 35765 Northline – is open Monday through Saturday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 734-942-2223 or visit romulusathleticcenter.com for information.

Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Romulus Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday beginning February 4 and continuing through April 15. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information.

Blood Drive

The Romulus Senior Center's annual blood drive will be held on Monday, February 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch Out

This month's "Lunch Out" destinations will be Polonus in Wyandotte (January 13) and Jordan's II in Romulus (January 22). Both trips depart at 11 a.m.

Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Monday Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors are invited to ride the Center's bus, free of charge, to shop at Wal-Mart on January 12 and Kmart on January 26. Transportation will depart from the Center at 9:30 a.m.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

Hot Lunches Warm Frigid Afternoons

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes scrod, lemon pepper chicken, ham with fruit sauce, spaghetti and meatballs, and stuffed peppers.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Converter Box Coupons Available

Still not ready for the February 2009 switch to digital programming? The friendly folks at the Romulus Senior Center can help you acquire a coupon for the purchase of up to two converter boxes.

Senior Center Closings

The Romulus Senior Center will be closed Monday, January 19, in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Ford each Thursday beginning February 5 and continuing through April 9. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information.

Enrichment Classes

The Ford Senior Center's winter session of enrichment classes begins the week of January 12 and runs through the week of March 30. Classes offered include:

- oil painting (Mondays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.),
- beginning stained glass (Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon),
- advanced stained glass (Thursdays, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.),
- beginning quilting (Tuesdays, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.),
- advanced quilting (Tuesdays, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.),
- machine embroidery (Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.),
- exercise (Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m.),
- beginning tai chi (Wednesdays, 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.)
- intermediate tai chi (Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon),
- advanced tai chi (Wednesdays, 9:45 to 11 a.m.),
- beginning line dancing (Fridays, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.),
- intermediate line dancing (Fridays, 1:30 to 3 p.m.),
- advanced line dancing (Thursdays, 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.), and
- ballroom dancing (Thursdays, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.).

Call for costs and other information.

Sweetheart Dance

The Ford Senior Center is planning a Sweetheart Dance on Monday, February 23, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tickets (\$7 each) must be purchased by Tuesday, February 17.

"An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then check out a first-run movie (with free popcorn and beverages) on Tuesday, January 20. Bus departs from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and returns at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Advance registration is required.

A Streetcar Named Desire

Enjoy lunch at the Chelsea Grill, then see the Tennessee Williams classic at the Purple Rose Theatre on Wednesday, February 4. Bus will depart at noon and return at approximately 6 p.m.

A cost of \$23 covers transportation and admission; lunch is not included. Advance registration is required. □

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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City _____ State _____

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City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

"Gateway to Golf" Recognizes Youngsters



During the Romulus City Council's regular meeting of December 22, 2008, two 11-year-olds – Caitlin Dorsey and Michael Kiesznowski (center) – were presented with the Gateway to Golf Junior Program's 2008 Thomas Kelly Memorial Achievement Award for exhibiting excellence in performance, effort, and character. The award, named for a former golf instructor and resident of the city's Gateway community, was presented by current Gateway Golf Course teaching professional Dennis Niemiec (left). Mayor Alan R. Lambert (right), whose Drug Task Force made a significant monetary donation to the youth golf program, is also pictured. *Photo by R. E. Kadau*

Geiss Sworn in as State Representative

continued from page 1

asset. After graduating first in his class at Truman in 1988, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in business administration from the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor (1992 and 2000, respectively). Since 1993, Geiss has worked for the Ford Motor Company, quickly moving up the ranks into management before the age of 30. Such a background, he believes, has given him a unique perspective that will be an advantage in dealing with many of our state's current woes.

Geiss, 38, is a lifelong Taylor resident. He is a member of the Democratic Club of Taylor, as well as St. Alfred's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus (both in Taylor).

Geiss and his wife, Erika-Marie, have one son, Michael. □

Head Start Enrollment

The Guidance Center's Romulus Head Start site (35408 Beverly Road) is now enrolling children who have celebrated their third birthday. Head Start is a free preschool program that serves three- to five-year-old children of income-eligible families. Part-day sessions are available now. Children with special needs are welcome.

Call 734-785-7792 to enroll your child. □

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The Stork Arrived!

Zander William Hance

Alex and Rachel Hance of Taylor, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Zander William Hance.

Zander was born in Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital at 11:18 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2008, weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 17.5 in.

Among those giving the new arrival a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, John and Terri Hance of Romulus, Michigan, and Don and Krystal Daugherty of Melvindale, Michigan, as well as his maternal grandparents, Rick and Cindy Perry of Taylor. Zander is the Perrys' first grandchild. □



Zander William Hance

They're Engaged!

Jaclyn A. Evans and Eric B. Lambert

Rich and Joyce Evans of Romulus are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaclyn A. Evans, to Eric B. Lambert, son of Maria Lambert of Romulus.

The Belleville couple – who have been engaged since October 8, 2008 – plan to exchange their wedding vows at St. Anne Catholic Church (Detroit, MI) on Saturday, October 10, 2009.

A reception will be held at Burton Manor (Livonia, MI) immediately following the ceremony. □



Jaclyn Evans and Eric Lambert

Wedding Bells!

John and Deana (Hunter) Ryznar

Congratulations to John and Deana (Hunter) Ryznar of Romulus, who were married on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

The couple – who had been engaged since September 2007 – exchanged their wedding vows at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church (Livonia, MI).

Deana was attended by bridesmaids Rachel Broom, Andrea Gibson, Stacey Mathison, Linda Ryznar, and Jennifer Hunter.

Standing up with John were groomsmen Steve Ryznar, John Lazere, Eric Staten, Michael Bergeron, and Denny Blount.

A reception was held at the Italian American Banquet Center (Livonia) immediately following the ceremony. □



Deana and John Ryznar

As part of our commitment to community service, *the little paper* publishes personal notices, at no charge, for residents in our coverage area. For info, call 734-941-1907.

Obituaries

Randall L. Cichowski

Randall L. Cichowski of Taylor, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at the age of 54.

The son of the late Joseph P. and Ilene (Eberlein) Cichowski was born in Trenton, Michigan, on Sunday, August 8, 1954.

Randy enjoyed racing cars, fishing, and hunting, as well as frequenting the Huron Turkey Farm.

Surviving Randy are his son, Raymond Cichowski; 4 brothers, Albert Cichowski (New Boston, MI), Jerry (Sue) Cichowski (Romulus, MI), Tim (Betty) Cichowski (Taylor), and Bill Cichowski (Wayne, MI);

a stepbrother, Dave Schaffer (New Orleans, LA); a stepsister, Vicky (John) Adams (Lansing, MI); and 15 nephews and nieces.

A funeral service was held on Monday, November 24, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (New Boston), with Reverend D. Lee Cullen officiating. Interment was at Huron Valley Cemetery (Flat Rock, MI).

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial contributions to Arbor Hospice or St. Paul's Church would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Mattie Elizabeth (Cox) Hester

Mattie Elizabeth (Cox) Hester of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, at the age of 87.

The daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Cox was born in Social Circle, Georgia, on Saturday, February 19, 1921.

Mattie was a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church (Romulus), where she was the past president of the senior choir and a former member of the Missionary Board. She enjoyed participating in church activities, fishing, and – most of all – spending time with her beloved family.

Surviving Mattie are 2 sons, Horace Hester (Romulus) and Willie (Hafeeza) Hester (Romulus); 6 daughters, Marsha Saafir (Westland, MI), Barbara (Sylvester) Jimerson (Ann Arbor, MI), Deborah Hester (Wayne, MI), Sherry Hester (Romulus),

Robertta Hester (Wayne), and Laverne Sledd (Inkster, MI); many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and 2 sisters, Gertrude (Willie C.) Tanks (Atlanta, GA) and Nezarine (Oswald) Thompson (Atlanta).

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, James M. Hester, whom she married in 1937; 3 sons, Robert, Marvin, and James Jr.; and a daughter, Faye Hester.

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 8, at First Baptist Church, with the Reverend Charles Woolridge officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial tributes to the family for later designation would be appreciated.

Floyd LaLonde

Floyd LaLonde of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at the age of 75.

The native of Garden, Michigan, was born on Wednesday, February 8, 1933.

Floyd ran his own business, LaLonde's, prior to his retirement.

His interests included auto racing (he was a former racecar driver at Flat Rock Speedway in Ash Township, MI) and growing/selling pumpkins.

Surviving Floyd are his wife, Verna LaLonde; 2 sons, Floyd LaLonde Jr. and Dale LaLonde; 1 daughter, Debbie (Jeffrey) Thomas; and 2 grandchildren, Debra LaLonde and Mitchell Thomas.

Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.



Floyd LaLonde

Patsy S. Nightingale

Patsy S. Nightingale of Roscommon, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at the age of 65.

The native of Purvis, Mississippi, was born on Monday, April 12, 1943.

Patsy was employed at General Motors for 28 years before retiring in 1998. She enjoyed quilting, sewing, and shopping, and always looked forward to participating in the annual festival at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI).

Surviving Patsy are her husband, Robert K. Nightingale; her mother, Lois M. (Jones) Saul; her son, Robert K. Jr. (Katherine) Nightingale; 3 daughters, Cheryl Nightingale, Karen Nightingale, and Rhonda (Todd) Modrzynski; 3 grandchildren; a brother, Jimmy (Dorothy) Saul; 3 sisters, Diane (Eu-

gene) Day, Valorie Cooper, and Donnie Sue (Johnny) Ligon; a half-brother, Richard Jr. (Sandra) Saul; and 2 half-sisters, Wilma Saucier and Ivonne (Andy) Priest.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her father, Richard M. Saul, and a brother, Jerry Saul.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 23, at St. Aloysius Church, with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Leukemia Foundation, or the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Olin William "Bill" Simonds

Olin William "Bill" Simonds of Starkville, Mississippi, passed away on Friday, December 5, 2008, at the age of 81.

The son of the late Olin W. Sr. and Ellen Kate (Miller) Simonds was born in Kingston, Tennessee, on Tuesday, July 12, 1927.

Bill, a U.S. Navy veteran, was the owner and operator of the former Bilmar's Supermarket (located on Goddard Road in downtown Romulus, Michigan) from 1975 to 1985. He was the first recipient of the Romulus "Person of the Year" award as well as the Kiwanis International's "Distinguished Club President" award.

Surviving Bill are his wife, Dot (Carlisle) Simonds; 2 sons, C. Phillip (Ellen) Simonds (Livonia, MI) and Thomas W. (Susan) Simonds (Ypsilanti, MI); 3 daughters, Judy C. (Richard) Shafer (Howell, MI), Lynn A. (Jim) Conway (Romulus), and Toni M. (Gary) Micik (Ypsilanti); 15 grandchil-

dren; 4 great-grandchildren; 2 stepsons, Tommy (Becky) Carlisle (Starkville) and Danny (Debbie) Carlisle (Starkville); a brother, Gordon Burkett (Diana) Simonds; and 8 sisters, Radie M. Chandler, Mary Ann (Jack) Gardner, Sarah S. (Oliver) Ferguson, Rose E. Turner, Carolyn K. Simonds, Barbara J. (Bud) Mills, Patricia M. (George Sr.) Henry, and Cynthia D. (Walter) Yong.

Among those who preceded him in passing were his first wife, Catherine Marie (Herndon) Simonds, and 3 brothers, Abslom G., Donald E., and Charles Simonds.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 10, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Marvin Hawbaker (Calvary Baptist Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Memorial tributes to any hospice would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Ruth L. Skupny

Ruth L. Skupny of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at the age of 86.

The daughter of the late Walter and Theresa R. (Davis) Pollins was born in Sumpter Township, Michigan, on Wednesday, July 12, 1922.

Ruth, an active member of the Romulus Senior Center, enjoyed quilting, bowling, and playing cards.

She is survived by a son, Jack Shick

(Romulus), and a sister, Eleanor (Jack) Louys (Willow, MI).

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, John G. Skupny; a daughter, Rosemary Shick; 2 brothers, Al and Alfred Pollins; and 2 sisters, Fran Cady and Ann Herman.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, January 3, 2009, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Mass cards or memorial tributes to the family for later designation would be greatly appreciated. □

In keeping with our continuing commitment to community service, *the little paper* publishes obituary notices, free of charge, for residents in our coverage/distribution area (Romulus, Taylor, Belleville, and Huron Township) and their families. For further information, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907 or thelittlepaper@comcast.net.

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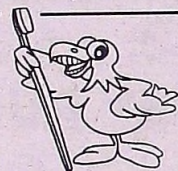
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One Person

ROMULUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOWLING NIGHT SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009 • 8:30 P.M.

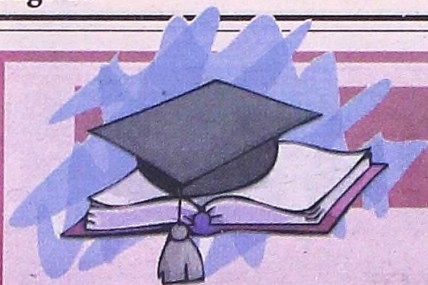
Lodge Lanes • South I-94 Service Drive • Belleville

3 Games of 9-pin/No-tap Bowling, Mystery Games,
Lucky Strike, 50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Pizza & Cash Bar

Tickets must be purchased in advance by January 15, 2009 (\$40 per couple or \$20 per person). Limited to the first 200 bowlers.

For ticket information, call 734-893-0694 or email info@romuluschamber.com.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the CAF 5 Prescription Drug Program.



It's NEVER too late to graduate!

Romulus Adult Education

will begin registration starting January 5th, 2009! We will be enrolling for:

GED Preparation • Certified Nurse Assistant • High School Completion

If you are 18 years of age or older, you qualify for free* Adult Education classes.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

High School Completion and GED Classes for 18 and over are **FREE***.

Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) class is \$500 – due by February 24th. (Class starts March 3rd, 2009.)

Tuition-based classes require a \$100 (cash or check) deposit – due at registration.

*All students must pay a \$10 Registration Fee – due at registration.

WHEN DO CLASSES START & HOW LONG DO THEY RUN?

All classes, except CNA, start the week of February 2nd and run for a 16-week semester.

WHEN & WHERE CAN I REGISTER?

Register at our Adult Ed Office, located at the

Mt. Pleasant Life-Long Learning Center on Hannan Road in Romulus.

Weekday office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Adult Education is Friday, February 6th, 2008, or when a class fills.

For more information, call 734-532-1956.

(For driving directions, call 734-532-1950 and press 1.)

Earn Your High School Diploma!



*If you are behind in credits or
not finding success in a traditional high school, consider*

Romulus Community High School

CHS is a Non-Traditional High School Program

serving 16- to 19-year-olds who live in Wayne County.

Program offers late-start, credit-recovery, and test-out options.

WHEN & WHERE CAN I REGISTER?

Register at Community High School's Main Office, located at the

Mt. Pleasant Life-Long Learning Center on Hannan Road in Romulus.

Weekday office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration for "School of Choice" is January 19th through February 6th, 2009!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE for School of Choice students at CHS

is Friday, February 6th, or when classes fill.

For more information, call 734-532-1953.

(For driving directions, call 734-532-1950 and press 1.)